

Nicola Shorten
Manager, Environmental Policy

Environmental Policy Department Report – November 2007

1. Maintaining regional plans

1.1 Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan

Proposed Plan Change 1 to the Regional Coastal Plan sets up a regime for managing noise related to port activities. This plan change is being done jointly with Wellington City Council. Their District Plan manages noise above mean high water springs and our Regional Coastal Plan manages noise below mean high water springs. The end result will provide for port noise management that is integrated across jurisdictional boundaries.

The plan change was notified on 19 December 2006. There were 8 submitters. A joint hearing on both plan changes was held on 2 July 2007. The hearing committee made recommendations that were approved by the Policy Finance and Strategy Committee on 27 September. Submitters on the plan change have been notified of the Council's decisions and the period for appeals to the Environment Court close at the end of November.

1.2 Plan Change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan

Plan change 3 to the Regional Freshwater Plan was publicly notified on 26 May 2007. This plan change limits the taking of additional water from three groundwater zones and eight streams in the Wairarapa. Submissions on the plan change closed on 15 October 2007 and four submissions were received (and no further submissions). Staff are preparing their recommendations on submissions.

2. Small scale water use survey

The first stage of a small scale water use survey in rural parts of the region was carried out in mid- November. The Resource Management Act allows people to take water for domestic and stock needs, and taking water for other small scale uses is permitted in our Regional Freshwater Plan (up to 20 cubic metres per person per day). The survey was sent to properties in the Otukura/Battersea area of the Wairarapa. Mail out of the survey was followed by visits to properties by staff.

The aim of the survey is to gather information on how much water is taken from groundwater and streams and what it's used for. At the moment we have no information on small scale use of water in rural parts of the region. Information on the amount of water people can take, as of right, will help us improve our water allocation budgets. In turn, this

will help us better manage water resources to ensure that there is enough for everyone, as well as maintaining the health of rivers and streams.

The response from the people visited has been positive and a number of people surveyed have agreed to having their water takes metered to provide an accurate record of the amount of water they use.

This is the first time we have done such a survey. We plan to learn from our approach and carry out similar surveys in other places over the next two years to give us a better picture of small scale water use in the region. The information we gather will be used for the review of the Regional Freshwater Plan, which will commence in 2009.

Ted Taylor
Manager, Environmental Monitoring and Investigations

Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department Report – November 2007

1. Rainfall and River Flows

1.1 Rainfall

September 2007 was sunnier and warmer than average due to the predominance of anticyclones, which resulted in lighter winds than normal and easterlies over the North Island. Rainfall for the month was well below average (Table 1) in the west of the Wellington region, with the Kapiti Coast, Wellington City, Hutt Valley and Tararua Ranges generally having rainfall totals about 40-60% of the long-term average for September. The eastern Wairarapa hills received slightly below normal to normal rainfall for September.

Table 1: Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for September 2007 and 2007 to date, compared to average

	September 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for September (mm)	2007 to end-September (mm)	Average year to end September (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for year to date
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	55.5	86.0	472	737	64%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	62.8	99.1	719	950	76%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	96.0	158.2	812	1508	54%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	420.5	619.1	4344	4965	87%
Alloa (Featherston)	70.4	87.6	488	814	60%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	83.5	117.5	788	1049	75%

October 2007 was a stormy and windy month in the Wellington region, particularly for the first two weeks of the month. Although this time of year is known for its windiness, it was the 4th equal windiest October since records began in 1966. Deep depressions tracking south of New Zealand resulted in frequent westerly gales. The result was generally average to above average rainfall for October in the Wellington region. High rainfall compared to average was measured in Wellington city, parts of the Hutt Valley, the eastern Tararua ranges and the Tararua foothills. Interestingly, rainfall in the western Tararua ranges (e.g., Otaki catchment) was slightly below average for the

month. This is because the storms at the beginning of the month were associated with very strong westerly or north-westerly airflows that carried proportionally more rainfall into the top and eastern parts of the ranges ('spillover').

The most significant storm events of October occurred on 7-8th and 16-17th, associated with north-westerly airflows. The earlier event, which brought 250 mm of rainfall in 24 hours to parts of the Tararua range, triggered floodwarning alarms in the Hutt, Otaki, Waiohine, Mangatarere, and Ruamahanga rivers. In addition, thunderstorms caused heavy rain and surface flooding in parts of the Hutt Valley and Kapiti Coast. The storm on 17th October was most significant in the eastern Tararua Ranges, in particular in the headwaters of the Waipoua River. The resulting flood in the Waipoua had a peak of 180-190 m³/s at Mikimiki (estimated to be around a 5 year return period) This resulted in some flooding of low-lying farm land, and surface flooding across Paierau Road, the main road bypass around Masterton.

The wet October has boosted rainfall for 2007 to date, although in most parts of the region rainfall totals are still low for the time of year (Table 1). Our monitoring data shows only the Tararua Ranges have had about average rainfall for the year so far. Parts of the region that are sheltered from westerly-type rainfall events have been the driest so far, as indicated by Wainuiomata Reservoir and Alloa in Table 2. There are still indications that La Nina conditions may develop. La Nina can result in lower than average rainfall, particularly in the west of the Wellington region, due to enhanced easterly airflows.

Table 2: Rainfall at representative monitoring stations for October 2007 and 2007 to date, compared to average

	October 2007 rainfall (mm)	Long-term average for October (mm)	2007 to end-October (mm)	Average year to end October (mm)	Percentage of long-term average for year to date
Otaki Depot (Kapiti Coast)	113.5	93	586	830	71%
Karori Reservoir (Wellington)	167	106	886	1056	84%
Wainuiomata Reservoir	184	168	996	1676	59%
Angle Knob (Tararua Range)	1156	725	5500	5681	97%
Alloa (Featherston)	135	97	623	911	68%
Tanawa Hut (East Wairarapa)	104	97	892	1146	78%

1.2 Rivers

Due to the low rainfall, particularly in the Tararua Range, average river flows for September were significantly below normal. The stable weather resulted in a lack of 'freshes' during the month, and generally low rainfall in 2007 to date has meant Wellington's rivers had lower than average baseflow for the time of the year.

September 2007 river flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow September 2007	Long-term average for September	Percentage of long- term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	2.34 m ³ /s	5.03 m ³ /s	47%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	11.0 m ³ /s	25.5 m ³ /s	44%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	0.39 m ³ /s	0.91 m ³ /s	43%
Waiohine River at Gorge	16.8 m ³ /s	28.4 m ³ /s	59%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	54.4 m ³ /s	112.2 m ³ /s	49%

Due to frequent rainfall events, the average river flows for October were above long term averages throughout the region. For most rivers this was the first month since January when average flows were higher than usual for the time of the year.

October 2007 River flows at selected monitoring stations

	Average flow October 2007	Long-term average for October	Percentage of long- term average
Waikanae River at Water Treatment	8.77 m ³ /s	6.21 m ³ /s	141%
Hutt River at Taita Gorge	38.4 m ³ /s	36.3 m ³ /s	106%
Wainuiomata River at Manuka Track	1.21 m ³ /s	1.18 m ³ /s	103%
Waiohine River at Gorge	41.8 m ³ /s	32.1 m ³ /s	130%
Ruamahanga River at Waihenga	157.3 m ³ /s	109.5 m ³ /s	144%

2. Floodwarning

The Environmental Monitoring and Investigations Department provides a flood warning and monitoring service for the Wellington region. Rainfall and river level recorders around the region automatically relay information to the Regional Council Centre and the Masterton office. When specified rainfall intensities or river levels are reached the system automatically alerts staff who implement response procedures.

In October two events triggered sixteen alarms in the Wairarapa and seven alarms in the Western part of the region. There were no events in September.

The outlet from Lake Onoke was blocked between the 9th and 15th of September. Water levels in Lake Wairarapa were above the target levels during all of September and October apart from three days.

3. Groundwater levels

3.1 Lower Hutt groundwater zone

Groundwater levels in the Upper Waiwhetu Artesian aquifer are at the long term average and well above the trigger levels for saline intrusion

3.2 Kapiti Coast groundwater zones

Groundwater levels at our monitoring bore in Te Horo on the Kapiti Coast continue to track around the long-term minimum. Levels in Te Horo have been below the long-term average for over two years. We are keeping a watch on levels in this bore and intend to carry out a desk top study of ground water in this area in the coming year.

Groundwater in our deep confined monitoring bore in Waikanae is at around the average level. The water supply borefield has not been used this season.

3.3 Wairarapa groundwater zones

Groundwater levels in the Wairarapa are beginning to show the effects of irrigation abstractions. With aquifers having generally not fully recovered from a dry autumn and relatively dry winter, groundwater levels may drop to the point where effects are noted by way of wetlands and springs drying up and wells no longer yielding water.

At our monitoring bore in the deep, confined Parkvale aquifer levels continue to track around the long-term minimum.

In the mixed rainfall/river recharged Te Ore Ore aquifer, the levels at our monitoring bore are at long-term minimum levels and are in the summer decline.

Water levels in our monitoring bore in the rainfall recharged, semi confined Martinborough aquifer are just below average for this time of year.

4. Air quality monitoring

4.1 National environmental standard for air quality

The limits for concentrations of contaminants in air were not exceeded in the period in any of the region's monitored airsheds.

5. Soil quality monitoring

A report has been received from Landcare Research setting out the results of the testing of soil samples collected from throughout the region earlier this year. The report will be presented at a later meeting.

This study is a follow up to the '500 Soils Project' which looked at soils at 500 locations in New Zealand. A number of regional councils have continued this programme so that any trends are identified.

6. Water quality

6.1 General

A number of technical reports are currently being finalised for publication. These include:

- A review of water quality and biological monitoring data collected from our 56 state of the environment river and stream sites
- The results of a water quality investigation in Hulls Creek
- Annual monitoring reports and summary report cards for air quality, hydrology, groundwater quantity and quality, coastal monitoring, freshwater quality and soil quality.

These reports will be presented at a later meeting.

6.2 Didymo

We are now responsible for surveillance and monitoring for didymo in the region. This responsibility has been passed from Biosecurity New Zealand (BNZ) to regional councils, with BNZ providing 'seed funding' to aid this transition.

We have carried out the first round of sampling under the new programme. Results were not available when this report was being written.

7. Bathing water quality

The summer bathing season started on 1 November and with that our annual recreational bathing water quality programme which involves weekly monitoring at 100 popular river and beach bathing sites. Results of this monitoring are available for viewing on the Greater Wellington web site.

Al Cross
Manager, Environmental Regulation

Environmental Regulation Department Report – November 2007

1. Consent statistics

The following consents processing data reflects the entire region. In the period from 1 September to 9 November 2007 we have received 154 consent applications. This compares with 149 received for the same period last year.

Over the same period, we have processed 136 consents. This compares with 130 over the same period last year.

Our median processing time for non-notified consents (excluding s37 time extensions) dropped to 14 working days for the last period. Our median processing time for the year from 1 July stands at 16. We have continued to process a substantial number of notified or limited notified consent applications. Bore permit numbers have also continued to remain at a low to moderate level. Nevertheless, the median timeframe is quite high at the current time and I expect it to drop over the year.

Unfortunately, one non-notified consent was processed out of time, due to a mistake in counting the actual processing timeframes over a series of statutory holds on the process and official extensions of the statutory timeframes. This was an avoidable error.

A summary of the notified consents we are currently processing is also attached for information.

2. Appeals and objections

2.1 Appeals

Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind

This relates to the joint decision to grant consents to Meridian Energy to establish a wind farm south of Makara.

Following the Environment Court's release of final revised consent conditions in July certain final consent conditions relating to noise (relating to the operation of the actual turbines) have been appealed to the High Court. This has affected only the Wellington City consents and none of the construction related activities, hence full works at the wider site was able to commence at

Labour Weekend following our assessment and sign off of site management plans required by our consents.

Waterfront Investments Limited (WWI) – Hilton Hotel

The Court hearing was adjourned in August to reconvene on 15 October for a further three days to conclude evidence from the remaining appellants. The further session was needed following the length of time the applicant's evidence took to present. The Court hearing has now concluded although it has yet to hear the closing submissions from the applicant. The applicant will provide these in written form to the Court, including answering any outstanding issues on traffic matters, by 23 November.

The decision to grant applications for a five-star Hilton Hotel on the Queens Wharf Outer-T, subject to conditions, was appealed by five parties including the applicant; Miro Property Holdings and Prime Commercial Investments; Wellington Civic Trust and Waterfront Watch; Wellington Indoor Sports (subsequently withdrawn) and Intercontinental Hotel; and including two section 274 parties (other submitters who haven't directly appealed).

Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust – Aquarium of New Zealand (MEC)

The majority decision on appeals of Wellington Marine Conservation Centre Trust Aquarium of New Zealand (MEC) was released on 24 September, overturning the Councils' joint decisions and declining the applications. The reasons for the decision were broad, although primary reasons were that the proposal would result in significant adverse effects on landscape values of the South Coast, and visual and recreational amenity, and traffic and natural hazard effects to a lesser extent (citing inconsistency with the District Plan and NZ Coastal Policy Statement). As a rare majority decision, Judge Thompson (in favour) was outnumbered by the two appointed commissioners. It is worth noting, of course, that the first consent hearing resulted in a split decision.

GW's prime matters, including impacts on the coastal marine area, were not considered to be significant. Importantly the Court gave no weight to the jurisdictional matters (GW's right to administer proposed activities in the coastal marine area at Te Raekaihau Point) raised by one of the appellants.

The MEC Trust has since lodged an appeal with the High Court, which has been supported by the Wellington City Council.

The decision to grant the new joint applications for the MEC was appealed by Save the Point Trust, Chris Webster and Lili Prince, with two additional parties joining the appeal. Greater Wellington matters relate to less substantive aspects of the application, including jurisdictional issues, structures in the coastal marine area and discharges associated with construction and operations. Wellington City Council (WCC)-decision related matters include natural character, landscape values, amenity, traffic management and sustainability.

Capacity/Wellington City Council: Western Wastewater Treatment Plant

Mediation between parties on these appeals commenced on 20 August. The first day enabled the parties to address expectations and scope out relevant matters to be covered in the mediation process. Mediation will be reconvened in February 2008 to enable WCC to audit the condition of the effluent pipeline.

Capacity/ WCC, New Zealand Forestry Group and Action for Environment Incorporated have appealed Greater Wellington's decision to enable the applicant to continue to discharge effluent to the Wellington South Coast and Karori Stream (including discharges of odour). The decision enabled 20-year durations for the main outfall discharge and air permit, and 10-year durations for each of the three discharges of milliscreened or untreated effluent to both Karori Stream and the South Coast. Issues covered by the appeals include the term of consent, effects on the receiving environment, and the state and ongoing integrity of the effluent pipeline.

Greater Wellington: Land and River Operations Department (LARO) – Scadden's stopbank

We are still in discussions with Mr Barton regarding our respective positions on key matters at the heart of Mr Barton's appeal. We hope we are able to reach a satisfactory resolution soon thus avoiding the case being heard in the High Court.

This relates to A J Barton's appeal to the High Court on the Environment Court's decision to uphold GW's decision on LARO's proposal to upgrade an existing stopbank adjacent to the Ruamahanga River. The appeal relates to the status and use of a paper road and implications of the stopbank upgrade.

Masterton District Council

This is an appeal by the applicant against a decision on applications for a coastal protection sea wall at Castlepoint. Stage 1 of the sea wall was approved subject to conditions, and the appeal against some aspects of this part of the project was resolved in 2005 and this part of the sea wall has now been constructed. Stage 2 of the sea wall was declined. Initially, Court mediation in 2005 determined a course of action where the Integrated Foreshore Management Plan (IFMP) would be developed by interested parties to look into coastal processes in the area where consent was declined. Following a long period where no progress was made, the Court initiated mediation on 30 April this year bringing back on track the IFMP process.

The time-table for receiving the IFMP has been revised again, to be completed by February 2008. This follows the circulation of agreed objectives for the IFMP process and Court initiated mediation.

2.2 Objections

Currently there are no objections before us.

3. Compliance and enforcement

3.1 General

There are no general matters to report to this meeting.

3.2 Specific compliance

Meridian Energy Limited – Project West Wind

The substantive works on Project Westwind have commenced, following many months of preparation of numerous site management plans including overarching environmental and monitoring management plans and a raft of supplementary environmental management plans. Our Meridian compliance management team has put in an enormous effort in advising on plan content and reviewing drafts to the point where they could be signed off. The team now moves to the actual on-site compliance work which will require weekly inspections (up to two full days a week) once the site is fully opened.

It should be noted that the level of site plan preparation work and anticipated compliance requirements on us is at a scale unprecedented for Greater Wellington.

3.3 Abatement notices

We have issued an unusually low number of abatement notices in the last period, which is pleasing. We served only one abatement notice (compared to 18 for the previous period) to:

- Juken New Zealand Limited and Hiroyuki Kawado (Director) for illegal discharges of liquid waste to an unnamed tributary of the Parkvale Stream.

3.4 Infringement notices

We have also issued an unusually low number of infringement notices in the last period. One infringement notice (compared to eight in the previous period) was issued to:

- Scot and Judy Preston for breaching an abatement notice requiring an illegal stopbank at Grays Road, Pauatahanui be either removed, effects mitigated or the structure authorised. Discussions with the land owners revealed that they had intended to mitigate the potential water diverting effects of the structure, but failed to meet the deadline set by the abatement notice.

3.5 Prosecution and enforcement orders

Four prosecutions and two enforcement order application are currently before the Court. A number of orders are currently being implemented.

Capital Egg, Peter Van Dyk, Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station

This case, involving a prosecution with connected enforcement orders, has progressed rather quickly in the Court during the last six weeks. The prosecution concerns charges against four parties for illegally dumping chicken manure, chicken carcasses and eggs in a gully head on Te Kamaru (Terawhiti) Station resulting in a direct discharge of manure into a tributary of Oteranga Stream. Eight charges (between four parties) had been laid in total for discharging from a trade premise to land and discharging to water.

On 6 November we lodged, together with Alan Hobbs and Te Kamaru Station, an agreed joint memorandum with the Court for enforcement orders requiring ongoing ecological and nutrient monitoring of Oteranga Stream, riparian enhancement planting, and physical mitigation of the nutrient discharges (including for instance wetland development, and possible stream flow diversion). We subsequently removed charges against two of the parties, Capital Egg and Peter van Dyk, who had a lesser level of direct culpability in the original incident.

At the same time and following some delay, the remaining two parties have entered not guilty pleas to all charges. A Court date for the fully defended hearing has been set down for 28 November.

Cardno Truebridge Callendar Beech (Cardno TCB) - discharges from James Cook Drive subdivision development

The first call on this prosecution has now been set down for 17 January 2008. The case relates to a breach of consent conditions involving the failure to implement a stream mitigation plan in a tributary of Duck Creek at the James Cook Drive subdivision site in Whitby. The mitigation plan was designed to minimise adverse effects to stream aquatic life. Charges were laid with the Environment Court on 20 September, and only involving the consent holder's consultant.

Exide Technologies Limited (Exide)

We laid charges against Exide on 3 October for an excessive discharge of lead-borne dust across the Southern boundary at Exide's Petone plant during the January to March 2007 period. A spike during one week in March was the primary cause of the average three-month monitoring levels (2.08 ug/m^3) exceeding the threshold set by the resource consent (1.5 ug/m^3).

The case has progressed rather rapidly to a first call last week where Exide was intending to offer a plea; however, at the Court's request a hearing has been set down for 26 November to enable the wider public with an interest in the case to hear full proceedings.

Media attention regarding our enforcement decision has been considerable, and we have put much effort into preparing media statements and Q & As to support our work with the media following charges being laid on 3 October. I

was pleased that key messages around our reasons for prosecuting were clearly reported.

The enforcement decision reflects our position that it is critical we strictly enforce the consent's most important conditions governing the maximum lead-in-air emissions at the plant boundary.

Goodman Contractors Limited (GCL), Stanley Goodman and Colin Landy

This case was heard by the Court on 14 November, with GCL pleading guilty to charges laid and subsequently sentenced. In a very positive outcome for GW and the local community GCL offered \$10,000 directly for restoration/enhancement work in the Pauatahanui stream catchment, which was noted by the Court in sentencing. The practice of defendants offering environmental restitution monies is becoming increasingly more common. GCL also offered \$5,000 towards GW's legal costs.

This is a prosecution against three parties for an unconsented discharge of a substantial quantity of sediment to a tributary of Pauatahanui Stream in late November 2006. The incident was significant in our view given the sensitive receiving environment of the Pauatahanui stream and inlet, thereby warranting prosecution.

J Gabites

This case relates to enforcement orders against J Gabites farm in Mangaroa Valley for ongoing discharges from pig effluent deposited around the property and earthworks to tributaries of Mangaroa River.

Mediation to date has not proved particularly fruitful, and we are currently, with the aid of an independent expert, reviewing the erosion and sediment control plan and nutrient/contaminant management plan. The next step is then to determine whether we are able to once and for all resolve our concerns out of Court.

We still retain the right to proceed to a Court hearing should we not be satisfied with progress or the quality of the plans submitted.

3.6 Take Charge

The *Take Charge* programme has continued to focus on the Grenada industrial area over the last quarter. We are working through a programme of revisiting 32 of the 62 initial businesses visited, and considered to pose a medium to high risk to the stormwater network and Takapu Stream.

We have received 12 enrolments for the *EnviroSMART* business programme, and are currently visiting the businesses involved. *EnviroSMART* is a programme run by Landcare Research to promote sustainable business practice. The *Take Charge* audit ensures that businesses gain their *bronze* accreditation level (compliance with GW's regional plans); while silver and gold levels require

stronger systems and an overall commitment to environmental sustainability to be incorporated into everyday business practices.

The *Take Charge* programme for the period is discussed in the Pollution Control Report (report 07.761).

4. Major resource consents and other matters

4.1 Key notified consents update

Fully Notified

Stronvar Properties Ltd

These are applications for a 56-lot subdivision at Stronvar, Masterton involving applications for discharges of wastewater (from a community waste water scheme) and sediment from earthworks, taking water (for communal water supply), and erecting a dam to establish an amenity and stormwater treatment lake.

There have been delays in receiving further information on a range of substantial matters including community wastewater treatment, and the operation and integrity of the proposed lake. The delay is reasonable given the complexity of the matters being considered; however, the information is now pending and it is possible that applications may be heard before the end of the year.

Webstar

We are continuing to work with the applicant to investigate further issues raised by the single submitter regarding the significance of odours discharged beyond Webstar's boundary.

This is a replacement application from Webstar (Blue Print Group Limited), Masterton, to discharge fine particle matter (PM₁₀) and other contaminants to air from printing and gas-fired boilers. The processing of this application will consider air quality within the Masterton air shed, which sometimes exceeds NES for Air thresholds for PM₁₀ of 50 ug/m³.

O'More Partnership

We are assessing aspects of a revised proposal to limit the scale and location of both the proposed cleanfilling and associated stream works (including piping and reclamation). The stream piping works itself is a non-complying activity under the Regional Freshwater Plan, which means that all associated applications must also be rated similarly.

This is a proposal to construct and operate a cleanfill near Judgeford. The activities include associated discharges from the construction and operation as well as stream piping.

A hearing is expected once all further information has been submitted and assessed, early next year.

Masterton District Council (MDC) - Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant

These applications are to discharge treated effluent to Ruamahanga River at Homebush, and to land in the general vicinity of Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant.

A pre-hearing was held on 12 November at MDC involving 50 participants, enabling the applicant to clarify issues for the submitters. Some of the critical issues traversed included discussion around possible future options for waste water treatment (including the developing new ponds or extended land-based discharge areas, on land made available to the Council at Homebush). MDC has indicated that they will look further at possible future options over the next month, with a view to making a decision whether they will modify their current proposal.

A hearing date is being tentatively set for late March next year, depending on the outcome of MDC's consideration of future options.

WCC/Capacity: United Water International sludge dewatering plant

These are WCC/Capacity's replacement applications for the sludge dewatering plant at the Carey's Gully Complex. They are the first set of consents due for replacement this decade. We received 95 submissions (primarily opposed), following full public notification including specific notification to 3500 property addresses in the Brooklyn to Island Bay area.

A pre-hearing meeting took place on 16 October, primarily to enable WCC to explain the applications and likely effects to participants. The participants expressed substantial concern about the ongoing odour problems experienced in the surrounding residential area. The participants asked the applicant to address the overall issue in a more integrated manner, and requested further information from GW (including the possibility of reviewing other consented activities at Carey's, and our rationale for and approach to odour monitoring). Both the applicant and GW will report back to a second meeting in February prior to setting a hearing date. The hearing was originally set down for November.

Capital Wharf Limited: Overseas Passenger Terminal (OPT)

Applications have been lodged, and notified on 12 October. The proposals are headed by Capital Wharf Limited and Wellington Waterfront Limited, and include building a six level residential apartment and retail development, incorporating under-wharf carparking. The proposed development also includes structural strengthening of the Clyde Quay Wharf, wharf public space development and a low-level jetty extension at the Wharf's northern end. The development bares many similarities to the Hilton proposal in its scale and significance for Wellington's waterfront (and thus public profile) and will once

again be considering a range of district planning matters (traffic management, urban design, heritage, public amenity, noise and wind effects) in our assessment. However, the immediate pre-application process has involved a reasonable degree of public exposure and input.

Submissions closed on 12 November with 199 submissions received (including 20 late submissions), around 120 in support.

Winstone Aggregates Limited

These are joint applications to GW and Hutt City Council (HCC) associated primarily with the development of a quarry overburden area at their Belmont Quarry site. Applications include the reclamation of watercourses on site, and the discharge to Hutt River of sediment from exposed fill material.

Following a pre-hearing in August, the applicant is still preparing further information including explaining key effects of the quarry overburden development (including dust management, noise and other amenity issues, and primarily affecting applications to HCC). The process has been delayed as Winstones prepare further information connected to matters raised by submitters.

WCC/Capacity: Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant

These are replacement applications from WCC/Capacity for ongoing operations at Moa Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, including discharges of treated and semi-treated effluent (mixed disinfected, secondary treated and milli-screened) to Cook Straight via the long outfall, and discharges of odours associated with the effluent treatment process. General issues historically have related to past odours from the plant, discharge quality and the location of the main discharge to the south coast at Moa Point.

Submissions closed on 15 August with 15 submissions received. The hearing has been set down for 10-12 December.

Limited Notified

GW Flood Protection Department – Waitohu Stream Operations Work

These are replacement consents for flood protection operations along much of its flood plain length from upstream of State Highway One to the coast. Notice was served on 56 parties, with two submissions received. The applicant is currently working through issues with submitters in order to resolve concerns, thus avoiding the need for a hearing.

Kintyre Trust

This application is for setting up a medium-sized rendering plant at an existing abattoir at Gladstone. Notice of the application has been served on eight parties and two submissions were received from Rangitaane o Wairarapa and the neighbouring Hurunui-o-rangi marae. A pre-hearing was held on 9 August raising concerns of possible odours produced by the operation, and we have

requested further information from the applicant to clarify some of these matters such as mitigation of odour effects and operational matters.

4.2 Upcoming consent applications

South Waitohu Stopbank: A proposed 780 m stopbank adjacent Mangapouri Stream in Otaki.

Lincolnshire Cleanfill: A large cleanfill proposed for the Lincolnshire Farm area north of Newlands.

T & T Landfill: An extension (by lifting) to the current landfill in Ohiro Road, Brooklyn.

Westchester Drive Extension: A roading project connecting to the current Mark Avenue extension, north of Newlands.

Puketiro Windfarm: We anticipate applications for a 40-plus turbine windfarm in the Puketiro forest area will be lodged later in the year.

4.3 Other applications

Neptune Power - Tidal Energy Turbine

We are continuing to process applications for a trial tidal energy turbine to be placed off the South Wellington coast. The application is on hold as the applicant consults with affected parties.

The trial is possible the pre-cursor to a supposed 7,000 turbine, multi-billion dollar proposal for the Cook Straight area, as reported recently in the media.

Taylor Preston Limited (TPL) – Upgrading Rendering Plant

As anticipated, we have now received a non-notified consent application to change consent conditions on TPL's existing consent. The proposal is for an upgrade of TPL's rendering plant and sludge and other solid waste management, in order to eliminate once and for all the ongoing odour issues experienced by the community.

The GW-devised process will be relatively inexpensive, not requiring public notification but will involve GAG in vetting the application and GW assessment. Installation work would take place during winter 2008.

4.4 Department projects

Muddy Waters and Small Streams Issues Workshop for GW staff

We recently ran a workshop (including Catchment Management, and Water Supply, Parks and Forests, and Environment Division staff), covering appropriate practices at earthworks and stream works sites, as part of our annual *Muddy Waters* and *Small Streams* programme. The workshop covered topics as diverse as ecological impacts on native fish, the latest approaches in

good management of sites, and enforcement ramifications if it all goes terribly wrong. The workshop was well attended by staff of the Council's operational departments and provided an excellent forum for discussing the issues and constraints affecting us as regulators or those doing these sorts of works.

Notified and limited notified consents - in process

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
South Wairarapa District Council	To discharge treated wastewater to land and to Donalds Creek, Featherston.	13/05/97		9	12/12/03	Hearing delayed as applications on hold.			
Stronvar Properties Ltd	Various activities associated with subdivision including discharges of communal waste water, soil disturbance, taking water, and constructing an amenity and treatment dam, Stronvar, Masterton.	24/07/06	15/12/06	24	-	Hearing delayed as applications on hold.		-	-
Capital and Coast District Health Board	To discharge particulates associated with the use of gas and diesel fired boilers.	08/06/06	31/07/06	3	18/08/06	No hearing required.		-	-
Webstar (Blue Star Print Group Limited)	To discharge particulates and other contaminants to air from three heatset lines, driers and thermal oxidisers associated with printing operations, Ngamutawa Rd, Masterton.	08/02/07	22/02/06	2	08/5/07	Further investigations into odour concerns currently being undertaken.			
G & W Bugden (O'More Partnership)	To undertake works to construct and operate a cleanfill (including assoc discharges), Judgeford, Porirua	12/12/06	02/05/07	13	31/05/07	To be set once further info received.			
Hutt City Council (Limited Notified)	To undertake erosion mitigation works in Wainuiomata River, including disturbance and diversion work.	07/08/06	20/10/06	1	20/12/06 15/02/07	Awaiting details from HCC of application modification.	-	-	-

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
M B & H F Herrick (Limited Notified)	Replacement consent applications to take groundwater from two bores for irrigation, Taumata Island, Carterton.	16/05/06	08/09/06	4	24/10/06	Hearing delayed as applications on hold – applicant undertaking monitoring to further assess effects.	-	-	-
Wellington City Council	To discharge contaminants to land and air from a sludge dewatering plant, Wellington.	27/4/07	13/07/07	95	16/10/2007 Second pre-hearing to be held, Feb 08.	On hold at applicant's request to prepare response for 2 nd pre-hearing.			
Winstone Aggregates Ltd	To pipe and reclaim four intermittent streams and to discharge contaminants to water from a quarry overburden area, Belmont.	7/5/07	10/07/07	24	30/08/07	On hold pending supply of further information and peer review of dust management.			
K R & S M Shaw (Limited Notified)	To divert a tributary of the Mangatarere Stream, including associated disturbance of the bed, to generate hydro-electricity in the Managatarere Valley, west of Carterton.	23/2/07	06/07/07	1	-	29/8/07	Cr Sally Baber Cr Chris Laidlaw		Granted - no appeals
Kintyre Trust (Limited Notified)	To discharge contaminants to air from a rendering plant at Gladstone, east of Carterton.	28/5/07	27/07/07	2	09/08/07	Hearing delayed as application on hold – applicant responding to issues raised at pre-hearing meeting and in submissions.			

Applicant	Proposal	Date Consent Lodged	Date Submissions Closed	Number of Submissions Received	Pre-hearing Held	Hearing Held	Hearing Committee Members	Date Decision Released	Granted or Declined
Masterton District Council	To undertake various activities associated with the proposed long term upgrade and operation of the Masterton Wastewater Treatment Plant at Homebush, east of Masterton	16/5/07	01/08/07	69	-	Hearing delayed as applications on hold – further information on a number of matters requested.			
Greater Wellington Flood Protection Dept	To construct structures and undertake works including gravel extraction in the Waitohu Stream and associated stream bed disturbance	10/05/07	22/06/07	2		Applicant currently negotiating with submitters.			
Wellington City Council	Discharge of treated wastewater and intermittent discharge of non treated wastewater to the CMA, occupation of the seabed by a pipe, discharge to air from Moa Point ventilation system.	2/07/07	15/08/07	15		Hearing scheduled for 10-12 December			
Capital Wharf Limited & Wellington Waterfront Limited	Coastal permits required for the redevelopment of the Overseas Passenger Terminal building and Clyde Quay Wharf, Wellington.	19/09/07	12/11/07						
Te Waka Water Co Ltd	To take and use water from an existing bore (R25/5208) in the Kapiti groundwater and domestic supply and irrigation purposes.	19/04/06	19/12/07						

Mike Pryce
Manager, Harbours

Harbours Department Report – November 2007

1. Harbour Navigation Aids

One of the two LED lights on Barrett Reef buoy needed to be replaced.

All other navigation aids operated satisfactorily.

2. Oil Pollution

No reports of “oil pollution” were reported during the period.

A member from the Environment Division attended a Management Course in October in Te Atatu. Two Centreport staff attended a Field Operations Course during this period.

On 8 October the annual Wellington Region Oil Pollution Support Group meeting was chaired by the Harbours Department. Its purpose is to keep interested parties informed regarding oil pollution response during the past year, updated on relevant legislation and ongoing training. It is also an opportunity for those agencies likely to be involved in a response should this region face a significant marine oil spill to network.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the Native Bird Rescue Wellington Trust to provide a wildlife response should the Region be affected by a significant marine oil spill.

3. Harbour Hulks

The removal of all floatable materials, oils and nets from the four hulks in GWRC’s “possession” is close to completion.

On 8 November the hulk of *James Cook* was turned-around at her berth at Miramar Wharf with the assistance of Coastguard.

The hulks of both *SZAP 8* and *James Cook* are now facing outwards ready for a tandem-tow and combined scuttling operation, hopefully by the end of November.

Next will be the hulks of *Atlantic Elizabeth* and *Seafire*, scheduled to be scuttled before Christmas.

There is just some final documentation required to satisfy Maritime New Zealand (such as a towing plan), after which the actual date will be subject to weather conditions and tug availability.

The activities associated with the hulks has taken up many, many hours of staff time, as has organising and co-ordinating contractors carrying out some of the work.

During the past months, numerous proposals and suggestions have been received from New Zealand and overseas regarding the disposal of these vessels. The majority of them were impractical.

4. Discussion Documents

Four significant discussion documents have been received.

Council has been requested to make submissions on all four documents by Maritime New Zealand and the Ministry of Transport by the 19 December 2007.

1. On 26 October we received a revised draft of Maritime Rule 90 (Pilotage). The revised legislation will replace the existing Part 90 in its entirety.

The existing Part 90 came into force on 1 April 2003, set out a new pilotage regime under the Maritime Transport Act 1994. This brought pilots' and exempt masters' licensing within that Act's maritime document system managed by MNZ.

The current Part 90 was always intended as an interim step towards substantive reform of New Zealand pilotage law. This initiative was programmed as one component of a larger review of the management of port and harbour safety in New Zealand. The amendments are the final step in the development of New Zealand pilotage law.

On 6 November the Ministry of Transport issued the following three discussion documents:

1. **Sea Change** – a draft domestic sea freight strategy. This outlines proposals from government on how and why an increased proportion of the growth in inter-regional freight can be carried by sea in the future.
2. **Port and Harbour and Safety Navigation Management.** Currently, port and harbour safety is managed largely through a voluntary code that has no legal force. This document looks at the implications of this situation for safety outcomes and also whether there is scope to improve arrangements for dealing with navigation safety in areas outside ports and harbours. One option proposed is that Maritime New Zealand takes over all responsibilities for navigational safety from Regional/District Councils.

3. Four International Maritime Environmental Conventions/Protocols which New Zealand is considering becoming party to.

The four conventions/protocols have been promulgated by the International Maritime Organisation, and provide global mechanisms for addressing the pollution risks that exist from the transport of substances by sea. The discussion document considers conventions/protocols concerned with intervention powers and preparedness and response measures for hazardous and noxious substance spills, and liability and compensation regimes for damage caused by marine incidents including from bunker fuel oil.

5. Other activities

- The Beacon Hill upgrade planning is pending resolution of issues regarding a neighbouring property, which is between the signal station and the main entrance channel into the harbour.
- The annual “Skyshow” fireworks display was held on Lambton Harbour from two anchored barges on 5 November and the associated harbour safety requirements were co-ordinated.

There were no safety incidents involving recreational boaties.